

SUMMARY OF CLAIMS

Claims 121, 123 - 129, 133, 135 - 138, 150, 153 - 173, 175, 176, 178, 179, 181, 182, 194-200, 202 – 217, 219 – 226, and 228 – 240 are pending. Claims 1-120, 122, 130-132, 134, 139-149, 151-152, 174, 177, 180, and 183-193 were previously canceled. Claims 201, 218, and 227 are newly canceled. Claims 238 – 240 are new. Examination and reconsideration of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

REMARKS

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 218, 219, 222, 223, and 225 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Naritoku et al. (6,104,956).

While Applicant does not acquiesce or agree with the Examiner's rejection, to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicant has canceled claim 218. Applicant herein reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of this claim in a continuation or continuation-in-part application. Applicant respectfully requests the rejection to this claim be withdrawn.

Claims 219, 222, 223, and 225 depend from currently amended independent claim 220. The Examiner has indicated that claim 220 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 220 has been amended to include the limitations of newly canceled base claim 218, and is therefore in condition for allowance. As claims 219, 222, 223, and 225 depend from claim 220, they are also in condition for allowance.

Additionally, the Examiner has rejected claims 201-211, 213-217, 224, 227-230, 233-235, and 237 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Dorfmeister et al. (5,995,868) in view of Naritoku et al.

While Applicant does not acquiesce or agree with the Examiner's rejection, to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicant has canceled claims 201 and 227. Applicant herein reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a continuation or continuation-in-part application. Applicant respectfully requests the rejections to these claims be withdrawn.

Claims 202-211 and 213-217 depend from currently amended independent claim 212. The Examiner has indicated that claim 212 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 212 has been amended to include the limitations of newly canceled base claim 201, and is therefore in condition for allowance. As claims 202-211 and 213-217 depend from claim 212, they are also in condition for allowance.

Claim 224 is currently amended to depend from currently amended independent claim 220. The Examiner has indicated that claim 220 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 220 has been amended to include the limitations of newly canceled base claim 218, and is therefore in condition for allowance. As claim 224 depends from claim 220, it is in condition for allowance.

Claims 228-230 and 233-235 are currently amended to depend from currently amended independent claim 231. The Examiner has indicated that claim 231 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 231 has been amended to include the limitations of newly canceled base claim 227, and is therefore in condition for allowance. As claims 228-230 and 233-235 depend from claim 231, they are in condition for allowance.

Claim 237 is currently amended to depend from currently amended independent claim 236. The Examiner has indicated that claim 236 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 236 has been amended to include the limitations of newly canceled base claim 227, and is therefore in condition for allowance. As claim 237 depends from claim 236, it is in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 121, 123-129, 133, 135-138, 150, 153-173, 175, 176, 178, 179, 181, 182, and 194-200 are directed to allowable subject matter.

The Examiner objected to claims 212, 220, 221, 226, 231, 232, and 236 as being dependent upon a rejected claim, but would be allowable if written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Currently amended independent claim 212 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of newly canceled base claim 201 and therefore is in condition for allowance.

Currently amended independent claim 220 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of newly canceled base claim 218 and therefore is in condition for allowance. Claim 221 depends from independent claim 220 and therefore is also in condition for allowance.

Currently amended independent claim 226 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of newly canceled base claim 218 and therefore is in condition for allowance.

Currently amended independent claim 231 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of newly canceled base claim 227 and therefore is in condition for allowance. Claim 232 depends from independent claim 231 and therefore is also in condition for allowance.

Currently amended independent claim 236 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of newly canceled base claim 227 and therefore is in condition for allowance.

New Claims

To more fully claim the novel aspects of the present invention, Applicant has added new claims 238-240. Examination and consideration of the new claims are respectfully requested. Claims 238-240 depend from currently amended independent claim 212. This independent claim is in condition for allowance and therefore claims 238 -240 should also be in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the remarks set forth above, Applicant believes that they are entitled to a letters patent. Applicant respectfully solicits the Examiner to expedite the prosecution of this patent application to issuance. Should the Examiner have any question, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (650) 354-4139.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with this submission, including petition fees and extension of time fees, and to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 23-2415 (Docket No. 31684-704.502).

Respectfully submitted,

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